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DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

## INVITATION TO THE JOURNALISTS

### **Press Conference on Consultative and Experience Sharing Forum on Remittances Leverage for Development**

Journalists are invited to take part in a press conference scheduled to take place on **8 July 2011, as from 5 pm**, in the **Media Center** of the African Union Conference Center.

The press conference will highlight the conclusions and outcome of the two-day Consultative and Experience Sharing Forum on Remittances Leverage for Development which will kick off tomorrow 7 July 2011 at the headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The press conference will be addressed by the representative of the AU Commission, the World Bank ; the European Commission; the African Development Bank ; the International Organisation for Migration

The objective of the African Institute for Remittances is to promote a better understanding of monetary and banking matters in Africa, as well as the pertinent aspects of fiscal and exchange rate policies; assist in improving the qualifications of central bank and other financial agencies personnel in Africa through the organisation of seminars and special training courses and the publication of surveys and research studies; conduct research and systematise the results of past experience in the above fields; and inform on developments in regional and international monetary and financial policy issues, amongst others. The AIR project will help build the capacity of the Member States of the African Union, remittance senders and recipients and other stakeholders to develop and implement concrete strategies and operational instruments to use remittances as development tools for poverty reduction.

For more information please consult the AU website: [www.africa-union.org](http://www.africa-union.org)

Interview requests should be directed to Esther Azaa Tankou, Directorate of Information and Communication, African Union Commission- e-mail: [yamboue@africa-union.org](mailto:yamboue@africa-union.org)

***JOURNALISTS ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EVENT ON 7 JULY AND CLOSING ON 8 JULY 2011***

***Attached is the program of the event:***



## Consultative and Experience Sharing Forum on Remittances Leverage for Development

### PROVISIONAL AGENDA

**7- 8 July, 2011**  
**African Union Commission**  
**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Day 1 – Thursday, 7 July, 2011	
8:30 – 10:00	<b>Registration</b>
10:00 – 10:45	<b>Opening Session</b>
<b>10:45 – 11:15</b>	<b>Group Photo / Coffee Break</b>
11:15 – 12:00	<p><b>Session 1 – Remittance Trends in Africa – FACTS</b></p> <p>This session lays out the foundation of technical discussions for the entire workshop by casting the current landscape of remittances in the African continent based on facts and findings from recent research and data. Panelists present findings of their recent research and findings to look at remittance issues from migration and volume data, market structure, household surveys, and remittance prices.</p> <p>Moderator – Jinmi Adisa, Director of CIDO, AUC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geertrui Lanneau, IOM</li> <li>• [person], ILO</li> <li>• Africa Migration Report and Study of remittance flows, Kai Schmitz, WB</li> <li>• Donors’ Activities in Africa – [person], AfDB</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>
12:00 – 13:00	<b>Session 2 – Updates on the Activities of the Project</b>

	<p>This session is to report updates on the activities of the AIR Project</p> <p>Moderator – Don Terry, World Bank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities led by the Payment Systems Development Group – General Principles Assessments, the African Remittance Database, Marco Nicoli, World Bank</li> <li>• Technical Assistance for Postal Operators and the Universal Postal Union offices in six pilot countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal) in West Africa, Nils Clotteau, UPU</li> <li>• Report on online discussions of the MANGO Project - African Diaspora communities, Tinos Yohannes, Mango</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00 – 15:00	<p><b>Session 3 –Remittances Sector Regulation and Policy Reforms</b></p> <p>This session will highlight the regulatory framework of the remittance sector. Panelists will share their views and experiences from their recent experiences. The session will also share good practices and lessons from recent policy reforms in the domain of remittances. These include development of payment systems infrastructure for increased efficiency and safety and the revision of legal and regulatory frameworks to open remittance markets for competitive markets.</p> <p>Moderator – person]. International Organization for Migration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The reform of the national payment systems, John Sebabi Bosco, Director of Payment Systems Department, National Bank of Rwanda</li> <li>• Role of exclusivity arrangements, TBD</li> <li>• <u>Q&amp;A</u></li> </ul>
15:00 – 15:30	<p><b>Coffee Break</b></p> <p>Video Presentation by the Center for Latin American Monetary Studies (CEMLA) – In a video presentation, CEMLA will present their role and functions among member countries and experiences in delivering results in respective areas.</p>
15:00 – 16:30	<p><b>Session 3 – Continued</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remittances and Development – Ron Hendrix, European Commission</li> <li>• Reforms in Latin America – Don Terry, World Bank</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>
16:30 – 18:00	<p><b>Session 4 – Remittances for Financial Inclusion and Development: Private Sector Views</b></p> <p>Moderator – Don Terry, World Bank</p>

	<p>Financial Inclusion has become a key agenda for international development. Remittances provide a key window of opportunities for expanding access to financial services and financial inclusion. This session will have panelists who have experiences on turning remittances into opportunities for financial inclusion. In addition, what are the challenges in offering remittances in the context of Africa?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Business Case for Banks? Linking remittances to other financial services. Imo Etuk, UBA Tanzania</li> <li>• Challenges in offering remittance services in Africa, Karen Jordaan, Western Union</li> <li>• Challenges in offering remittance services in Africa, <i>Money Express and WU?</i></li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>
18:30	Reception Programme at the AUC Congo Hall
<b>Day 2 - Friday 8 July, 2011</b>	
8:30 – 9:00	Recap Session, Don Terry, World Bank
9:00 – 10:30	<p><b>Session 5 – Breakout Session</b></p> <p>During the session, participants from African states will break into discussion groups of topics of interests focusing on the structure, functions, roles, location, as well as the funding modalities of the AIR. There are three different discussion groups. Each group will discuss all topics. At the end of the session, each group will prepare a set of recommendations for the institute.</p> <p>Overall Moderators – Don Terry, World Bank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [Group Green] – Facilitator – Kai Schmitz, World Bank</li> <li>• [Group Orange] – Facilitator – [person], African Development Bank</li> <li>• [Group Red] – Facilitator – [person]. International Organization for Migration</li> </ul>
10:30 – 12:15	<b>Session 5 – Breakout Session - Continued</b>
12:15 – 13:15	<b>Lunch</b>
13:15 – 16:45	<b>Session 6 – Plenary Session: Presentations and Considerations of Recommendations for the Institute leading to the Action Plan</b>

	<p>Moderator – Don Terry, World Bank</p> <p>Each breakout group will present recommendations on respective topics and the participants will propose and agree on next steps for establishing the Institute.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Group Orange</li><li>• Group Green</li><li>• Group Red</li></ul>
16:45 – 17:00	Closing Session